

To the Editor:

The Dec. 17 series, "Memory Inc.," examines isolated incidents of elopements in assisted living communities but presents a very misleading and incomplete view of senior care. Nothing is more important than our residents' safety, and any fatality is tragic and devastating.

According to an analysis by industry experts of national senior living data, 6.2 million seniors resided in assisted living communities during the five years examined in this article. It is clear that fatalities from wandering in assisted living are exceedingly rare.

When protocols and safety procedures are not followed, appropriate disciplinary action should be taken. We strongly support state enforcement, including community closures, if warranted.

Additionally, the Post's reporting fails to acknowledge that the vast majority of our residents and their families love their assisted living communities [according](#) to a recent JD Power survey. Other [surveys](#) find that 99% of residents feel safe in their communities, and 91% say they feel safer than living on their own.

As our nation grapples with caring for its aging population, assisted living is at the forefront of advancing independence and dignity for seniors. Our communities are committed to continuously improving the care and services we provide, including safety measures for those living with dementia. But seniors and their families deserve better than alarmist reporting.

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